

Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment" (No. LS-98-002) received on February 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1580. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Modification to Handler Membership on the California Olive Committee" (Docket FV99-932-2 IFR) received on February 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1581. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Animal Food and Food Additives in Standardized Animal Food" (Docket 95N-0313) received on February 2, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1582. A communication from the President of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1583. A communication from the Chairman of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence In Education Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's annual report for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1584. A communication from the Director of the Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Protected Status: Amendments to the Requirements for Employment Authorization Fee, and Other Technical Amendments" (RIN115-AF37) received on February 2, 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1585. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the current Future Years Defense Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1586. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Commerce Control List: Changes in Missile Technology Controls" (RIN0694-AB75) received on February 2, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1587. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the proposed allocation of funds within the levels established in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1588. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Presidential Determination 98-36 exempting the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada from any hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1589. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, a report on a construction prospectus for a stand-alone daycare center for the Social Security Administration's Woodlawn, MD campus; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1590. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Reauthorization of Aviation Insurance Act"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BRYAN):  
S. 383. A bill to establish a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MCCAIN:  
S. 384. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to waive certain domestic source or content requirements in the procurement of items; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ENZI:  
S. 385. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 386. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax-exempt bond financing of certain electric facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Con. Res. 6. A concurrent resolution authorizing flags located in the Senate portion of the Capitol complex to be flown at half-staff in memory of R. Scott Bates, Legislative Clerk of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

## MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 99. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend Federal Aviation Administration programs through September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 383. A bill to establish a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### AIRLINE PASSENGER FAIRNESS ACT

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator MCCAIN, the Chairman of the Senate Commerce

Committee, and Senators BRYAN and SNOWE in introducing today the Airline Passenger Fairness Act of 1999. The purpose of our legislation is to assure that consumer protections don't end when a passenger pulls into the airport parking lot. Travelers ought to enjoy the same kinds of rights in the air as they do on the ground. But as airline profits have soared in recent years, passenger rights have been left at the gate.

We are well aware that legislation cannot resolve every problem air travelers may encounter. Our bill does not impose a federal mandate for fluffier pillows or a Constitutional right to a bigger bag of peanuts, just the right to basic information and the ability for consumers to make decisions for themselves.

The Department of Transportation's (DoT) Air Travel Consumer Reports just issued its final tally of consumer complaints for 1998. Consumer complaints about air travel jumped from a total of 7,667 in 1997 to 9,606 last year, an increase of more than 25%. In just three months last year, one airline alone denied boarding to 55,767 passengers. The 10 largest U.S. carriers combined denied boarding to more than 250,300 passengers from July-September 1998. One industry expert estimates that sometimes as many as 130-150% of the seats on a flight are sold. Clearly, all is not well.

The price of an airline ticket is one of the great mysteries of modern life. A ticket costs one price when purchased over the phone and another if purchased online, one if purchased in the morning and another three hours later. It practically defies the law of physics.

With this bill, we are putting the airlines on notice that business as usual is no longer acceptable for American air travelers. No longer can a passenger be bumped, canceled or overbooked with impunity.

Under this bill, consumers will be able to get full information about all the fares on all the flights. Airlines will no longer be able to withhold basic information on air fares, creating confusion and preventing consumers from comparison shopping. It will also make sure that when a consumer pays for a ticket, they can use all or part of it for whatever reason they choose. Airlines will have to inform a ticketed passenger when a flight is overbooked, as well as when the problem is when a flight is canceled, delayed, or diverted.

The legislation will work by building on current rules and regulations. Today, the Department of Transportation can investigate "anti-competitive, unfair or deceptive practices" by an airline. If the Department finds that an airline has engaged in such practices, DoT can issue civil penalties or take other actions to assure compliance. Our legislation will empower consumers to seek DoT action against carriers that fail to respect the common sense consumer protections spelled out in the bill.